

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to modified, hydroxy-bearing aromatic ring structures having cytoprotective activity. More specifically, in a first embodiment the

- 5 present invention is directed to phenolic compounds, and in particular steriods (e.g., estrogens), wherein a non-fused polycyclic, hydrophobic substituent is attached to the hydroxy-substituted A-ring thereof. The present invention is further directed to a process for conferring  
10 cytoprotection to a population of cells involving the administration of the compound.

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